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foregoing description. All changes that come within the meaning and range of equivalency of the claims are to be embraced within their scope.

What is claimed and desired to be secured by United States Letters Patent is:

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A2

1. A selectively adaptable computer system for testing a computer program to ensure that the program processes as designed, the system comprising:
 - one or more test cases, wherein each of the test cases is a set of instructions for testing a feature of the computer program;
 - a harness, wherein the harness is a set of instructions that executes each of the test cases on the computer program;
 - a connector, wherein the connector is a set of instructions that selectively integrates a generic interface between the one or more test cases and the harness regardless of the language or format in which the test cases were written; and
 - a processor for executing the one or more test cases, the harness and the connector.
2. A selectively adaptable computer system as recited in claim 1, wherein the set of instructions of the harness and the set of instructions of the connector utilize an architecture that defines a means for accessing a resource over a network.
3. A selectively adaptable computer system as recited in claim 2, wherein the architecture is COM technology.

Sub A2-7
4. In a computer system that includes a processor, a computer program, one or more connectors, a program module, and a harness, a method for testing the computer program to determine whether the program processes as designed, the method comprising the steps for:

organizing one or more test cases into a hierarchy;
interfacing a harness with the test cases, wherein the interfacing allows the harness to recognize and execute the test cases; and
traversing the hierarchy to execute on a computer program one or more test cases selected by a user, wherein the selected test cases are executed on the computer program regardless of the language or format in which the test cases were written.

5. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the step for traversing is performed by the harness.

6. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the step for interfacing is performed by the one or more connectors.

7. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the method further includes the step for determining whether one or more of the test cases are identified as being deselected, wherein a deselected test case is not executed on the computer program.

8. A method as recited in claim 7, wherein one or more test cases comprise a test suite in the hierarchy.

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Sub 27 9. A method as recited in claim 8, wherein one or more test suites comprise a test module in the hierarchy.

10. A method as recited in claim 9, wherein upon the user selecting a test suite, the one or more test cases that comprise the test suite, excluding any test cases determined to be deselected are selected.

11. A method as recited in claim 10, wherein upon the user selecting a test module, the one or more test suites that comprise the test module, excluding any test cases determined to be deselected are selected.

12. A method as recited in claim 4, wherein the step for traversing further includes executing the selected test cases on a thread pool comprising of one or more threads.

13. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for traversing further includes copying a selected test case across all of the one or more threads, and wherein the selected test case is executed across all of the one or more threads.

14. A method as recited in claim 12, wherein the step for traversing further includes executing one of the selected test case on one of the threads.

Sub 17 15. A computer program product for implementing within a computer system a
2 method for testing a computer program to determine whether the program processes as
3 designed, the computer program product comprising:

4 computer readable medium for providing computer program code means
5 utilized to implement the method, wherein the computer program code means is
6 comprised of executable code for implementing the steps for:

7 organizing one or more test cases into a hierarchy;

8 interfacing a harness with the test cases, wherein the interfacing
9 allows the harness to recognize and execute the test cases; and

10 traversing the hierarchy to execute one or more test cases on the
11 computer program, wherein the one or more test cases are executed on the
12 computer program regardless of the language or format in which the test
13 cases were written.

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15 16. A computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the step for
16 traversing is performed by the harness.

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18 17. A computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the step for
19 interfacing is performed by one or more connectors.

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21 18. A computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the step for
22 organizing the test cases into a hierarchy includes grouping one or more of the test cases into
23 a test suite.

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1 19. A computer program product as recited in claim 18, wherein the step for
2 organizing the test cases into a hierarchy includes grouping one or more test suites into a test
3 module.

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5 20. A computer program product as recited in claim 15, wherein the one or more
6 test cases executed on the computer program are selected by a user.

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8 21. A computer program product as recited in claim 20, wherein the step for
9 traversing further includes executing the selected test cases on a thread pool comprising one
10 or more threads.

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12 22. A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the step for
13 traversing further includes copying a selected test case across all of the one or more threads,
14 and wherein the selected test case is executed across all of the one or more threads.

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16 23. A computer program product as recited in claim 21, wherein the step for
17 traversing further includes executing one of the selected test case on one of the threads.

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24. In a computer system that includes a computer program for processing, a program module written in any format or language for testing the computer program, a harness and one or more connectors, a method for testing the developed computer program to determine whether the program processes as designed, the method comprising the acts of:

- employing one or more connectors to perform the acts of:
 - identifying one or more structural elements from a program module;
 - translating the identified structural elements into a hierarchy, wherein the hierarchy includes one or more series of instructions that test a feature of a computer program, and wherein the hierarchy groups related series of instructions; and
 - interfacing the hierarchy with a harness; and
- executing the one or more series of instructions on the computer program, wherein the series are selected by a user and executed by the harness, and wherein the selected series of instructions are executed on the computer program regardless of the language or format in which the series were written.

25. A method as recited in claim 24, wherein the act of executing is performed on a thread pool comprising one or more threads.

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27. A method as recited in claim 25, wherein the act of executing is further performed by copying each series of instructions across all of the one or more threads, and wherein each series of instructions is executed across all of the one or more threads.

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